Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Have the Government considered whether we can find markets for these mats ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes; various parts like Coimbatore and Bombay and even some of the mills want mats to wrap their cloth.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* In view of the importance of the industry will the Government make a full enquiry into the matter to see whether we can find markets for these mats ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The difficulty is that people themselves do not allow us to help them. That is one of the great difficulties.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Has it not been brought to the notice of the Government that there is a large demand ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I shall again make an exhaustive enquiry, and if the hon'ble members also will persuade the people to enter into this thing, it will be the proper way. The difficulty is that they do not understand this. Immediately our back is turned they sell to somebody else.

COIR INDUSTRY, MATTANCHERI AND NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES—WORKING OF COIR DEPOT

52. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the condition of the coir yarn cottage industry in the villages in Mattancheri Constituency, *viz.*, Chellanam, Kumbalangi, Palluruthy, Rameswaram and Mattancheri ;

(*b*) will the Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the working of the coir depot opened in Mattancheri with particular reference to the amount and volume of business transacted, the supply obtained from villages, the elimination of middle-men and the general condition of the trade?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) Owing to the European war the coir yarn industry was affected very much and it was brought to a stand-still for a few months. It is now slowly reviving and the condition is much better than it was.

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(*b*) Up to the end of Karkadagam 1115 *i.e.*, for a period of nearly 5½ months about 550 candies of coir yarn were sold in the depot amounting to Rs. 17,225. All the supply came from villages. Middle-men are being gradually eliminated as far as possible. The depot has not had much of an effect as in the early stages it is only doing restricted business. With the gradual expansion of its business it is hoped that it will be in position even to control the general condition of the trade.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know the volume of coir business in Mattancheri ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I have no information just at present ; but I shall supply you later on.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is there any material benefit for the people by the sale of this 550 candies ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Government are only rendering the necessary help. It is for the people to make use of the facilities. Government cannot compel people to bring their coir to the depot, and anybody who brings coir will get a very fair and decent treatment.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether the depot gives anything more than what is given in the bazaar?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The moment we move in that direction all the Mattancheri merchants will be up in arms against us.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I want to know whether the depot gives a better price than the market.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The moment we give a better price the merchants themselves combine and raise the price.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri):* Are Government taking any commission from the customers ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes, the usual commission.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Trippunittura):* Have Government opened any depot outside Mattancheri ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* There was an idea to open depots outside Mattancheri, but the matter was dropped. It is only if we open branch depots that this will serve the purpose. I perfectly understand the question. Unless we have

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got branch depots, it will not serve the purpose for which it is opened. The matter will again be considered.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri):* Who is the manager of the present business?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The same man who has been the manager from the beginning—Mr. Narayana Menon. There was no change.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri):* What is his salary?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Rs. 75 per mensem.

Mr. B. M. Peter *(Latin Christians-Mattancheri):* Has the manager his private business?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* He has his private business. The only other man, a Christian and who was the best man available, demanded Rs. 250.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Is the present person in charge of the depot conducting this business even now?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* He is a wholesale dealer and his business is there. He is conducting this business and wherever it is possible, he takes these yarns so that indirectly he is helping us.

Mr. B. M. Peter *(Latin Christians-Mattancheri):* So, he is doing this work for his own interest?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I have never found in Cochin State anyone who is doing business for the interest of other persons.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Since he is a Government servant, does it not come into clash with our interests?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It only helps our interests.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഠം കൊല്ലംകയർ വ്യവസായത്തിൽ പരിചയമുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള കാരണമല്ലാതെ വേറെ പറയത്തക്ക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമൊ, സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമൊ, സ്വകലാശാല വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമൊ ഒന്നുമില്ലാത്ത ഒരാൾക്കു് 6 രൂപാ ശമ്പളം കൊടുത്തുവരുമ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹം നേരത്തെ നടത്തിവന്നിരുന്ന ബിസിനസ്സ് സ്വകാര്യമായി നടത്തുവാൻ അനുവദിച്ചു കൊടുത്തതു ശരിയാണൊ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: ആ ബിസിനസ്സും ഇതും വെവ്വേറെയാണു്.

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മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഇതു രണ്ടും ഒരുതരം ബിസിനസ്സ് ആകുമ്പോൾ അങ്ങിനെ സഹകരിച്ചുമായി നടത്തുന്നതു ശരിയാണോ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: ഈ ബിസിനസ്സിന്റെ സ്വഭാവം അറിയാവുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ് അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ആക്കിയതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഇസഡ്: അദ്ദേഹത്തെ അങ്ങിനെ അവരോധിച്ചാൽ ഇതുപോലെയുള്ള ഒരു വ്യവസായം നടത്തിവരുന്ന നമ്മുടെ മുമ്പിലുള്ള കച്ചവടക്കാരനായ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു് ഇതിലുള്ള ഇൻട്രസ്റ്റ് കുറയുവാൻ തരമില്ലെ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിൽ നടക്കുന്ന സംഗതികളും ഞാനും അറിയുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ ബിസിനസ്സിന്റെ സംഗതികളും ഞാനറിയുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ ചോദ്യത്തിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശവും ഞാനറിയുന്നുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ പുതൂർ അച്യുതമേനോൻ: ഈ പറഞ്ഞതു് ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ നിലയിലാണോ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: അതെ.

മിസ്റ്റർ പുതൂർ അച്യുതമേനോൻ: കയർ കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നവർക്കു ശരിയായ വില ഡെപ്പോവിൽ നിന്നു കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ടോ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു് തെളിയിക്കാമോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പുതൂർ അച്യുതമേനോൻ: ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ള വില കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നു അന്വേഷിക്കേണ്ട ചുമതലയില്ലേ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: ഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ അതു തെളിയിക്കേണ്ട ചുമതല നിങ്ങൾക്കുമുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: അദ്ദേഹം സഹകരണ ബിസിനസ്സ് നടത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് ഗവൺമെൻറിനു വല്ല ദോഷവുമുണ്ടോ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: ദോഷമില്ല, ഗുണമാണുള്ളതു്.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri)*: Has any alternative scheme been brought to the notice of the Government by any of the members?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: The only scheme that was submitted was by Mr. Nambiar who suggested the starting of branch depots. We are considering it.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഇസഡ്: ഇങ്ങിനെ പ്രൈവറ്റ് ബിസിനസ്സില്ലാത്ത ഒരാളെ ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ വിരോധമുണ്ടോ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: ഒരു വിരോധവുമില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഇസ്മായിൽ ഹാജി ഇസഡ്: അങ്ങിനെയുള്ളവർ ഉണ്ടോ എന്നു് ഗവൺമെൻറ് അന്വേഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: ഉവ്വു്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ളവരോടു ചോദിച്ചിട്ടു് 1000 രൂപയാണു മുമ്പിൽ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്.

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Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Now that the business has come to a standstill, do Government intend to continue the depot and entrust it to a person who has not got his private business? It is stated in the answer that the business is at a standstill. We are paying a monthly salary of Rs. 75. Cannot the Government stop the matter altogether and secure the services of a full-time man?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* If there is no work why do you want a full-time man? If you want to stop the depot, let the House take the responsibility.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* I am only making a suggestion.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Let the House take the responsibility to carry out the suggestion.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I know that you get a commission of Rs. 175 for selling 100 candies, and that the depot will be self-supporting, if they deal with 100 candies, and the salary will go out of it. What I want to know is, when you are paying to the producer directly only the same amount as he gets from others, what is the benefit to the producer? That is my only object.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The idea was, whatever the profit is, it should go to the producer by a remission or rebate. I want to reduce it in view of the possible combination of the merchants.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri):* What is the rate?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The same rate that the merchants of Mattancheri allow. If there is any balance it will be handed over to them.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഒരു രൂപാ രമ്പളത്തിൽ ഫർണൈമിൽ ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്ന പ്രാപ്തനായ ഒരാളെ കിട്ടുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നടപടി നിർത്തുവാൻ വിരോധമുണ്ടോ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: ഒരു വിരോധവുമില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ ജോലി ക്കുന്ന ആൾ ഒരു നായരായതുകൊണ്ടാണോ ഈ ചോദ്യം? ഈ ബിസിനസ്സിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു ചെറിയ കൊല്ലത്തെ പരിചയമുണ്ട്. ഫ ൦,൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപാവരെ അവിടെയിരിക്കുന്ന ആളെ എല്പിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. അതിനു പറ്റിയ ഒരാളുണ്ടാകണം. പണം പോകാതെ സൂക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതു എന്റെ മുമതലയാണ്. I hold myself responsible though not required. When a department is entrusted to my care and funds are given to me, I consider that I am the custodian of those funds.

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Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I am at one with the Minister that we have a good man and that we cannot get a better man. In fact he is a good gentleman. There is no use of casting any aspersion on him. You say that a rebate is given back to the producer who brings this yarn. How much has actually been given?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* If there is any balance towards the end of the year, we are thinking of reducing it, in view of the opposition from the traders. If we reduce the price there will be a hue and cry and Government will have to compete with the merchants.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* You cannot have two prices. I understand that the intention is to give back whatever profit you make at the end of the year in the shape of rebate.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Government do not want to make any profit. The main object is to prevent any combination to raise the charges.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Trippunittura):* Of the persons who have supplied yarn to the depot may I know how many were agents in Mattancheri and how many from outside?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Mainly from outside.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Trippunittura):* Are not these rebates given to these agents?

Mr. President: The main idea of this scheme was to eliminate the middlemen between the producer and the merchant, so that the actual market price may fall into the hands of the producer. The scheme has not been worked out fully on account of the international situation.

UNIFORMS—ANCHAL PEONS—SUPPLY OF

53. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether uniforms are supplied to Anchal peons working in Anchal Offices within all Municipalities;

(*b*) how many such uniforms are supplied to each peon in a year;

(*c*) when was the supply of uniforms made in 1115?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) No. The supply of uniforms to Anchal peons is restricted to important stations including those

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